

My interest in these families began with a search for all the details of the fate of John Collins, Jr. and his wife Mary Goddard.

Long hours have I sat in the house of "Aunt Em" Jordan and listened to her tell of life on the farm in Hailstone and Jordanelle and the story of her mother, Mary Goddard, losing her new husband with the "cholera" while aboard ship, on the Atlantic Ocean, on the way to America from England. She ("Aunt Em") said her mother would tell the story with tears in her eyes that he was buried at sea (Atlantic Ocean).

Another story is told in the Collins family in Provo that he was buried in a shallow grave west of Hams Fork, Wyoming. We are sure now that this was his father John Collins, Sr. husband of Priscilla Shefford.

The next thing to do is to actually get hold of a daily diary by some member of that company and perhaps this will be found in the files of the Church Historian's Office in Salt Lake City or in a ship's log. The ship, American Congress, sailed 23 May 1866, ship Captain H C Woodman → 42 days to New York City by 4 July 1866.

As I dug deeper and deeper into the histories of John Collins, Sr. and John Collins, Jr. I became aware that there has never been a complete story written on the history of Hailstone, Keetley, Jordanelle, Moultonville, Riverdale, etc.

So I am now compiling this story, trying to recapture the lives and times of these early settlers and making record of their kith and descendants to date.

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*Hailstone search began
about 1956*